

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01216 191057Z

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5536

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, KS

SUBJECT: KOREAN POPULATION ESTIMATES BEING REVISED UPWARDS

SUMMARY: POPULATION ESTIMATES FOR 1975 NOW BEING USED BY KOREAN PLANNING AGENCIES SHOW ABOUT ONE AND A QUARTER MILLION MORE PERSONS THAN THE ESTIMATES USED LAST YEAR. NEW REVISED POPULATION PROJECTIONS THROUGH THE YEAR 2000 ARE EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED IN SEVERAL WEEKS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT IS IN THE PROCESS OF REVISING ITS POPULATION FIGURES UPWARDS ON THE BASIS OF (1) AN OCTOBER 1, 1975, CENSUS, (2) A SUBSEQUENT INTERIM ADJUSTMENT FOR ASSUMED UNDERCOUNTING, AND (3) FURTHER ADJUSTMENTS, EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE END OF FEBRUARY, WHICH WILL PRESUMABLY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT A POST-CENSUS SAMPLING SURVEY.

2. PENDING THE FINAL ADJUSTMENTS YET TO BE RELEASED, KOREAN PLANNING AGENCIES ARE NOW CONSISTENTLY USING THE FOLLOWING MID-YEAR POPULATION FIGURES IN THOUSANDS OF PERSONS: 1975-35,251 (PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED AT 33,994) AND 1976-35,851. MID-1974/75 AND MID 1975/76 POPULATION GROWTH RATES OF 1.60 PERCENT RESULT, AFTER ALLOWING FOR NET EMIGRATION, THE SAME FIGURE AS ESTIMATED PREVIOUSLY FOR 1974/75. HOWEVER, 1970-1974 GROWTH RATES NOW READ HIGHER THAN BEFORE.

3. THE OCTOBER 1, 1975 CENSUS COUNTED 34,688 THOUSAND PERSONS. WITH THE INTERIM ADJUSTMENT FOR UNDERCOUNTING, THE TOTAL AS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 01216 191057Z

OCTOBER 1 NOW READS 35,400 THOUSAND, WHICH IS 2.1 PERCENT

HIGHER THAN THE RAW CENSUS RESULT.

4. PER CAPITA GNP AND OTHER DATA USED IN EMBASSY REPORTING
DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS ARE BASED ON THE SAME TENTATIVE
REVISED ESTIMATES THAT KOREAN PLANNING AGENCIES ARE NOW USING.
THE EMBASSY WILL REPORT THE FINAL ADJUSTMENTS TO POPULATION
ESTIMATES WHEN THEY ARE RELEASED.
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